Message Text

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TAGS: PARM, PINS, PINT, US, GW, CH

SUBJ: LENINGRAD LECTURES ON INTERNATIONAL SCENE

1. USUAL AUDIENCES OF MID-AND LOWER-LEVEL PARTY FUNCTIONARIES AT ZNANIYE SOCIETY ROUNDUPS ON USSR'S INTERNATIONAL SITUATION ON MAY 28 (LECTURER V. I. MOROZOV) AND JUNE 4 (LECTURER CANDIDATE OF HISTORICAL SCIENCES, V. M. KARTASHOV)) WERE TOLD THAT THERE IS "SERIOUS CHANGE" FOR WORSE IN DEVELOPMENT OF DETENTE AND IN US-SOVIET RELATIONS. FULL BLAME FOR THIS WAS LAID ON U.S. WITH PRESIDENT CARTER HIMSELF SUBJECTED TO HEAVIER CRITICISM THAN USUAL. US-USSR RELATIONS ARE AGAIN CENTER POINT OF LECTURES AND TONE HAS STRUCK US AS MORE MILITANT AND STRIDENT THAN IN PAST AND MARKED BY VIGOROUS, SOMEWHAT DEFENSIVE, PORTRAYAL OF SOVIETS AS INJURED AND SLANDERED PARTY, BUT STILL INTENT ON FOLLOWING POLICY OF "DISARMAMENT AND PEACE." SOVIET-FRG RELATIONS HAVE BECOME MAJOR THEME SINCE BREZHNEV VISIT AND HANDLING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IS UNUSUALLY POSITIVE. CHINA REMAINS MAJOR "BETE NOIR". LECTURES PAST SEVERAL WEEKS HAVE IGNORED MIDDLE EAST AND ETHOPIA-SOMALIA SITUATIONS. PRINCIPAL HIGHLIGHTS OF LECTURES FOLLOW.

2. DETENTE: US-SOVIET RELATIONS, WHICH DETERMINING ELEMENT OF DETENTE, ARE PORTRAYED AS UNDERGOING A "SERIOUS CHANGE"

FOR WORSE, AS NEGATIVE US TREND WHICH "BEGAN IN 1975"
HAS ACCELERATED. BLAME FOR WORSENING IS LAID SOLELY ON
US SIDE AND SAID TO BE RESULT OF US FURY AT GAINS IN
STRENGTH OF SOCIALIST CAMP WHILE WEST DECLINES. AMONG
GAINS DESCRIBED WERE CONTINUING GROWTH IN ECONOMIC POWER
SOVIET UNION AND WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES, INCREASING SUCCESS
"SOCIALIST" ECONOMIC INTEGRATION, WAXING OF COMMUNIST
PARTIES IN WESTERN EUROPE AND RECENT "POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS" IN ETHIOPIA AND AFGHANISTAN. REALIZING
FUTILITIES OF "ROLL BACK" AND "IMPOTENCE" OF U.S. TO
CHANGE THESE DEVELOPMENTS, U.S. SAID TO HAVE LAUNCHED
HEIGHTENED CAMPAIGN OF "PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE" PRINCIPAL
GOAL OF WHICH IS TO "BRING PRESSURE" ON SOVIET UNION.
KEY ELEMENTS THIS CAMPAIGN HAVE BEEN "EXAGGERATION"
OF SOVIET THREAT AND AGGRESSIVE INTENT.

3. PRESIDENT CARTER: WHILE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL ADVISOR BRZEZINSKI REMAINS CHIEF VILLIAN, PRESIDENT CARTER HAS BEEN SUBJECTED IN PAST SEVERAL WEEKS TO INCREASED PERSONAL CRITICISM IN LECTURES FOR CURRENT DETERIORATION US-SOVIET RELATIONS. AUDIENCES ARE TOLD THAT PRESIDENT WAS BASICALLY "WELL DISPOSED" TOWARD DETENTE BUT IS INCREASINGLY INSISTING ON DEFINING IT IN TERMS OF SECURING "OLD GOALS" OF THE US WHICH ARE NOTHING SHORT OF "SUPERIOR POSITION" IN WORLD. TO THIS END, THERE HAS BEEN REORIENTATION US POLICY IN WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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US-SOVIET RELATIONS HAVE BEEN MOVED TO THIRD PLACE
AFTER NATO AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, A MOVE ALSO DESIGNED
TO "PUT PRESSURE" ON SOVIET UNION. CARTER SAID TO BE
"NOT COMPETENT" (NEKOMPETENTEN) ON INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS
AND HENCE VERY DEPENDENT ON ADVISORS INCLUDING "POWERFUL
FINANCIAL INTERESTS" WHICH "SUPPORTED HIS CAMPAIGN."
AT SAME TIME, AUDIENCE WAS TOLD PRESIDENT WAS LOSING
HIS SUPPORT AMONG AMERICAN "WORKING CLASS" WHO VIEW
HIM AS UNABLE TO CARRY OUT HIS PROMISED SOCIAL
PROGRAMS. PRESIDENT ALSO WAS SAID TO BE "LOSING INITIATIVE" IN SENATE ON SALT.

- 4. DISSIDENT TRIALS: LECTURES DID NOT MENTION INTERNATIONAL REPERCUSSIONS OF ORLOV TRIAL OR OTHER DISSIDENT TRIALS. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION MAY 28 LECTURER SAID THERE COMPLETE FREEDOM POLITICAL OPINION IN USSR BUT COUNTRY WOULD NOT TOLERATE VIOLATION OF LAWS OR TREASON. RESPONSE ELICITED MURMURS OF APPROVAL AND ROUND OF APPLAUSE FROM PARTY FUNCTIONARY AUDIENCE.
- 5. SALT: SALT TALKS DESCRIBED AS HAVING "ALMOST

SUCCEEDED" WITH FEW HARD QUESTIONS REMAINING,
CENTERING ON MODERNIZATION OF WEAPONS AND VERIFICATION. AUDIENCE TOLD THAT, DESPITE DEMOCRATIC PARTY
MAJORITY, PRESIDENT CARTER IS "LOSING THE INITIATIVE"
ON SALT IN SENATE WHERE POWER OF CONSERVATIVES LIKE
SENATOR JACKSON IS WAXING WHILE PRESIDENT'S POSITION
IS WEAKENING. SALT OPPONENTS SAID TO BE WAGING MULTIFRONT CAMPAIGN CHARACTERIZED BY "DEFAMATION" OF USSR
AS AGGRESSIVE POWER, AND MILITARY THREAT, AND BY EFFORTS
TO "DISCREDIT" CHIEF US SALT REPRESENTATIVES WHO BEING
PORTRAYED AS "INCAPABLE OF REPRESENTING US INTERESTS."

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AUDIENCES TOLD THAT SIGNS ARE APPEARING WITH SIMPLE SLOGAN "KISSINGER IS MEMBER OF COMMUNIST PARTY" AS PART THIS DISCREDITATION CAMPAIGN. JUNE LECTURE MADE NO COMMENT ON RECENT CARTER-GROMYKO WHITE HOUSE MEETING ON SALT. BOTH LECTURES CONTAINED RINGING STATEMENTS ON NOBILITY OF SOVIET POLICY AND ASSURANCES THAT SOVIETS WOULD CONTINUE TO SEEK AGREEMENTS ON SALT AND IN OTHER DISARMEMENT AREAS WHERE THEY HAVE BACKING OF SUBSTANTIAL PART OF WORLD.

6. US-SOVIET TRADE: AUDIENCES WERE TOLD THAT,
DESPITE PROBLEMS OF SALT IN SENATE, THERE IS POSITIVE
CHANGE IN SENATE'S ATTITUDE ON JACKSON-VANIK AMENDMENT,
WHICH "KEY ELEMENT HINDERING EXPANSION US-USSR TRADE."

MARSHALL SHULMAN CREDITED AS LEADER IN FIGHT FOR REVISION JACKSON-VANIK. AUDIENCE GIVEN NO PROGNOSIS OF OUTCOME, BUT WAS PROVIDED WITH HODGE-PODGE EXPLANATION OF REASONS BEHIND "CHANGING ATTITUDE" WHICH INCLUDED COMMENTS THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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--JACKSON-VANIK AMENDMENT WAS "ZIONIST EFFORT" INTERFERE IN SOVIET INTERNAL RELATIONS. TACTIC, HOWEVER, HAD FAILED AND VARIANT THUS BEING ABANDONED.

--U.S. DESPERATELY NEEDS ACCESS TO "ENORMOUS MARKETS OF SOCIALIST STATES" (ESPECIALLY USSR) IN ORDER OVERCOME ITS INTERNAL ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES MARKED BY CONTINUING DEPRESSION, INFLATION, DECLINE IN VALUE OF DOLLAR, AND SERIOUS BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICIT.

--SOLUTION IS TO REVERSE DECLINE IN US-USSR TRADE OF RECENT YEARS.

7. CHINA: LECTURERS HAVE BEEN DEVOTING CENTRAL. VIRTUALLY TOTALLY NEGATIVE TREATMENT, TO CHINA. BRZEZINSKI NBC "MEET THE PRESS" INTERVIEW CITED AS "CLEAR EVIDENCE" THAT US NOW ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN EFFORT "USE" CHINA AGAINST USSR. CHINESE DESCRIBED AS OBSESSED BY TERRITORIAL CLAIMS, ABSOLUTELY OPPOSED TO DETENTE AND "ONLY COUNTRY" IN WORLD WHERE INEVITABILITY OF WAR IS WRITTEN INTO CONSTITUTION." CHINESE POSITION ON VIETNAMESE CHINESE PROBLEM LABELED "INTERFERENCE" IN VIETNAMESE INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND VIETNAMESE ACTIONS DEFENDED AS CORRECT POLICY WHICH NATURALLY EFFECTS MANY CHINESE SINCE THEY CONTROLLED MUCH OF CAPITAL IN SOUTH VIETNAM. ECONOMIC INFLUENCE OF OVERSEES CHINESE IN SOUTH EAST ASIA (ESPECIALLY IN INDONESIA AND PHILLIPINES) STRESSED AND 5TH COLUMN IMPLICATION STRONGLY UNDERLINED. AS EXAMPLE, RETURN OF US EDUCATED CHINESE WAS GIVEN CREDIT FOR SUCCESS CHINESE NUCLEAR AND ROCKET PROGRAMS. WESTERN PRESS PLAY OF RECENT SOVIET INCURSION INTO CHINA TERRITORY CALLED "SORRY COMMENTARY" ON CURRENT STATE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DETENTE DUE ITS UNQUESTIONING ACCEPTANCE OF CHINESE, RATHER THAN RUSSIAN, VERSION. CHINESE DOMESTIC ECONOMIC SITUATION WAS PORTRAYED IN VERY BLEAK TERMS AND COUNTRY DESCRIBED AS "ON VERGE OF FAMINE." CHINESE ECONOMIC

REFORMS CONTINUE BE EXPLAINED AS FOCUSSING ON STRENGTHENING COUNTRY'S MILITARY CAPABILITIES AND AUDIENCE TOLD THAT CHINESE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN SEEKING ARMS FROM NUMBER OF NATO COUNTRIES (FRANCE, FRG AND UK MENTIONED) AND MILITARY ELECTRONICS FROM JAPANESE. CHINESE ALLEGATIONS THAT "USSR IS MAIN WORLD THREAT" ACKNOWLEDGED AS HAVING SOME SUCCESS, ESPECIALLY IN US AND UK, BUT AUDIENCE ASSURED THAT CHARGES BEING MET BY "VERY HEAVY CRITICISM" THROUGHOUT WORLD. JUNE LECTURER SAID USSR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH CHINESE REMAIN "ON PAPER" AND UNRESOLVED AND, IN REASSURING TONE, UNDERLINED THAT MAJOR AIM OF BREZHNEV TRIP TO FAR EAST WAS TO REVIEW STATUS OF SOVIET MILITARY IN THAT AREA.

8. USSR-FRG RELATIONS: FRG HAS BEEN RECEIVING MAJOR
ATTENTION IN ZNANIYE LECTURES HERE SINCE BREZHNEV VISIT
TO FRG. LECTURES EMPHASIZING FRG ROLE AS "ECONOMIC GIANT"
AND "MOST IMPORTANT" WEST EUROPEAN POWER, WITH HUGE TRADE
TURNOVER AND GOLD RESERVES. FRG LABOR DESCRIBED AS MORE
PRODUCTIVE THAN US, AND POINT
MADE THAT DOLLAR HAS BEEN DEVALUED AGAINST DM SIX TIMES
IN RECENT YEARS. FRG'S MILITARY IMPORTANCE
ALSO DESCRIBED AND ITS INFLUENCE WITHIN NATO SAID TO BE
WAXING. LECTURERS TAKING LINE THAT INCREASED FRG ROLE
IN ADVANCEMENT OF DETENTE NOW "OBJECTIVELY POSSIBLE"
AS FRG PUBLIC OPINION HAS UNDERGONE "PSYCHOLOGICAL CHANGE"
INCLUDING ACKNOWLEDGING RESULTS SECOND WORLD WAR. FRG
ALSO PRAISED FOR "INCREASING FLEXIBILITY" ON FORCE
REDUCTIONS IN EUROPE. KEY ELEMENT OF BREZHNEV VISIT

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SAID TO BE "EDUCATING YOUNGER ELEMENTS" IN IMPORTANCE OF TIES WITH USSR. AUDIENCE BEING TOLD THAT FRG COULD PLAY IMPORTANT ROLE IN INFLUENCING US-USSR RELATIONS ALTHOUGH IT "OPEN SECRET" THAT CARTER-SCHMIDT RELATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN GOOD. 25 YEAR TRADE AGREEMENT WITH FRG BEING TOUTED AS "EXAMPLE" FOR OTHER COUNTRIES. ALTHOUGH DOWNPLAYED, AUDIENCE TOLD THAT THERE ARE CONTINUING PROBLEMS IN FRG'S SOLID COMMITMENT TO WESTERN CAMP AND FRG FAILURE ACCEPT SOVIET POSITION OR "COMPROMISES" ON WEST BERLIN.

9. US POLICIES TOWARD EASTERN EUROPE DESCRIBED AS "EFFORT TO DIVIDE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES" WITH US POLICY INITIATIVES CURRENTLY FOCUSSED ON POLAND, YUGOSLOVIA, ROMANIA AND HUNGARY.

10. AFGHANISTAN WAS GIVEN ENTHUSIASTIC TREATMENT: MILITARY TURNOVER DESCRIBED AS DEEP NATIONAL REVOLUTION ENJOYING "ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT" COUNTRY'S VARIOUS ETHNIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GROUPS AND SOCIAL STRATA, WITH EXCEPTION OLD RULING CLASS. HISTORY OF "TRADITIONAL GOOD RELATIONS" BETWEEN USSR AND AFGHANISTAN STRESSED AS WELL AS TRAINING IN SOVIET UNION OF TOP LEADERS OF NEW REGIME INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER TANAKI AND DEFENSE MINISTER. ACHIEVEMENTS OF NEW REGIME PORTRAYED IN SOME DEPTH AND SAID TO INCLUDE AGRICULTURAL REFORM, "DEMOCRATIZATION" (INCLUDING PURGES) OF GOVERNMENT APPARATUS AND OF ARMY, BALANCED ETHNIC POLICIES, STRENGTHENING OF WOMEN'S EQUALITY AND RIGHTS, EXPANSION OF FREE EDUCATION AND FOREIGN POLICY ORIEN-TATION BASED ON "PEACEFUL COOPERATION, FIGHT FOR PEACE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH USSR AND ITS OTHER NEIGHBORS." NO MENTION MADE OF COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS OR POSSIBILITY OF REVERSE OF REVOLUTION. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, LECTURERS SAID AFGHANISTAN NOT YET "SOCIALIST COUNTRY" BUT COULD BE DESIGNATED "COUNTRY WITH SOCIALIST ORIENTATION."

11. ZAIRE: US PORTRAYED AS MOVING POWER ANDINSTIGATOR BEHIND FRENCH-BELGIUM INTERVENTION IN ZAIRE. WESTERN PRESS ACCUSATIONS OF SOVIET-CUBAN MILITARY ROLE WERE SAID TO BE "TOTALLY FALSE" ALTHOUGH LECTURER ADMITTED THAT THERE IS NO WAY TO CONTROL TRANSFER OF WEAPONS "SUPPLIED TO VARIOUS AFRICAN FRIENDS." WESTERN

"OCCUPATION" OF ZAIRE STATED BE NECESSARY TO PROP UP REPRESSIVE MOBUTO REGIME AND PROTECT INTERESTS OF EUROPEANS AND "INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL."

12. USSR-CZECHOSLOVAK RELATIONS: AUDIENCE TOLD THAT BREZHNEV VISIT IS BEST EXAMPLE THAT USSR-CSSR RELATIONS NOW EXCELLENT. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, LECTURER SAID THAT DUBCEK ALIVE AND LIVING AS PRIVATE CITIZEN. HE ADDED GRATITIOUSLY THAT, AS FAR AS HE KNEW, NOVOTNY WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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